THE TRUE STORY

OF

"Jennie" Wade

A Gettysburg Maid

BY

J. W. JOHNSTON

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J. W. JOHNSTON

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Photo by W. H. Tipton, Gettysburg, '90

In memory of

MRS. JAMES WADE

1820-'92

(*nee* MARY ANN FILBY)

The mother of Mary Virginia Wade

This publication is dedicated

Photo by Hostetler, Des Moines, Ia., 1914

GEORGIA WADE McCLELLAN

July 4th 1841—

(*The sister of Mary Virginia Wade*)

After the Battle of Gettysburg, her child being six weeks old, Mrs. McClellan served as a nurse to the wounded soldiers quartered in the Court House. She also assisted at the General Hospital Camp at Gettysburg when the wounded were brought together. In 1864 she went to Washington and nursed in the Emery Hospital under the direction of Annie Wittenmyer, who had charge of the Sanitary Commission.

Engaging in Women's Relief Corps work, after the war, she became Department Treasurer (Ia. 1887), Department President (Ia. 1897-'98), Department Secretary (Ia. 1899-'00), Chairman, National Executive Board (1900), National Press Correspondent (1907), Secretary, National Women's Relief Corps (1909-'10), Department Chaplain (Ia. 1917).

Honorary member, 10th New York Cavalry, N. Y. (1898).

State President W. C. T. U. (Ia. 1900-'03, 1906).

PREFACE

The True Story of "Jennie" Wade—a Gettysburg Maid—is the result of a most careful study and painstaking investigation conducted from August, 1916 to June, 1917, by Mr. J. W. Johnston, of Rochester, N. Y. No expense was spared and no stones left unturned to secure the truth relating to what is unquestionably one of the most interesting, if not actually *the* most interesting, personal episode concerning the great battle of Gettysburg.

There is romance and tragedy in the life of this Gettysburg girl. However, the romance here presented is the romance of truth, rather than of fiction. Unfortunately, much has been written and spoken concerning the character, life and death of "Jennie" Wade which will not stand the searchlight of analytical examination, nor the acid tests of proof.

The author does not claim infallibility, and it may be that some slight error or errors have crept into this first edition. If so, and if sufficient corroborative evidence of a reliable nature can be furnished, corrections or additions will gladly be embodied in the second and subsequent editions of this publication.

However, it might well be stated at this point that the story as here presented has the endorsement and the approval of Georgia Wade McClellan, the sister of Mary Virginia Wade, popularly known in history as "Jennie" Wade. The illustrations are absolutely authentic, several of the half tones being direct from untouched, war-time daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and ferrotypes. Several of these recently found are here presented for the first time in published form.

Daguerreotype by Speaits, Gettysburg, 1861

GEORGIA WADE, MARY COMFORT, MARY VIRGINIA WADE

(This absolutely authentic, untouched, group portrait is here reproduced for the first time in the exact size of the original.)

CHAPTER I

(May 21, 1843)

ary Virginia Wade was born on Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, May 21, 1843. She was christened as an infant at her home by Reverend Gutilious. Her father was James Wade, a tailor by trade, of English descent, born in James City, Va., Aug. 9th, 1814, died in 1871 at Gettysburg. The mother of Mary Virginia Wade was Mary Ann Filby, of German parentage, born 1820 at York, Pa., died, Gettysburg December 24th, 1892.

The father of Mary Virginia Wade lost his health about 1851. The girl had received some schooling and had been employed in house work, as well as in sewing for the tailoring trade. While a little girl her school mates called her "Gin" or "Ginnie" by reason of her middle name. The title "Jennie" was a subsequent newspaper inaccuracy which has persisted. She was confirmed and united with St. James Lutheran Church, April 20, 1862.

The children of the Wade family at the time of the great battle were Georgia Wade, age 22; Mary Virginia Wade, age 20; John James Wade, age 17; Samuel S., age 12, and Harry M. Wade, age 8. After the health of James Wade, Sr. had broken down, Mrs. Wade and Mary Virginia Wade worked as seamstresses maintaining a little home on Breckenridge Street, where they were living at the time of the war.

Georgia Wade was married to John Louis McClellan April 15th, 1862, their home being on Baltimore Street, near East Cemetery Hill—the north half of the double dwelling now being generally known as the "Jennie Wade House."

Virginia Wade was a good looking, hard working, young woman whose daily service assisting her mother in maintaining a home for themselves and the boys will always remain an honor and a credit to American womanhood.

Ambrotype. Studio unknown. About 1860.

JOHNSTON HASTINGS SKELLY

1843-1863

Fiancé of Mary Virginia Wade

(Reproduction same size as original)

CHAPTER II

(June 26, 1863)

N the winter of '61-'62 the 10th N. Y. Cavalry, known as "The Porter Guards," was stationed in Gettysburg. From time to time Mrs. Wade and her daughter repaired uniforms and sewed buttons on army coats for these soldiers. Both women were highly respected by the New York men, veterans of the regiment living in Lockport, N. Y., at the present time recalling the fact that they were kindly and hospitable, lonesome as the men were away from their homes. In fact, the daughter invited and occasionally went to St. James Lutheran Church with one or two of the visiting troopers.

The beautiful character and the patriotism of Mary Virginia Wade in her attitude toward Union soldiers is not only suggested by the high estimation in which she was and is still held by the New Yorkers, but also by reason of the fact that she became engaged, probably in the spring of 1863, to be married to Johnston H. Skelly, of Gettysburg, Penna.—age 22—a granite cutter by trade, who was a Corporal in the 87th Pa. Vol. Inf. and away with his regiment at the time the first Confederate troops rode into Gettysburg—June 26th, 1863. Her marriage to "Jack" was to take place in September, 1863, if he could secure a furlough.

At this point, it will doubtless be of interest for us to remember that the great grandfather of Virginia Wade was Colonel Chidley Wade, killed at the Battle of the Brandy Wine, September 11th, 1777. Her grandfather, Thomas Wade, aide de camp to General LaFayette, was wounded at the same battle. The father of Mary Virginia, James Wade, was a Captain in the 80th Pa. Militia, being commissioned by Governor David R. Porter, August 3rd, 1842. Her brother-in-law, J. Lewis McClellan, the husband of Georgia Wade, had answered President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, and at the end of the ninety days enlisted with 165th Pa. Vols. The brothers of Mary Wade were also patriotic, as we shall immediately see.

The Army of Northern Virginia had crossed the Potomac about June 15th on its invasion of the North. Immediately after news had reached Gettysburg that the Confederates were advancing toward the village, an Emergency Regiment—the 26th Penna., was organized, Co.'s A and B of this regiment consisting of students from the Pennsylvania College in Gettysburg and also from the local Lutheran Seminary.

John James Wade had volunteered in Co. B, 21st Pa. Cavalry and had been accepted as a bugler. He was very small for his years. His uniform had arrived, but was about two sizes too large. The sister, Virginia, seeing the misfit and being skilled at the work of alterations set at once to put the garments in shape. The 21st Penna. Cavalry chanced to leave Gettysburg by the York Road a few hours before the Confederates happened to ride into the town from the opposite direction. Bugler Wade in his altered uniform was not ready to leave with the others, but on getting his horse rode hurriedly alone out of town endeavoring to catch up with his comrades.

The loving and patriotic service of the sister toward her soldier brother during the hours on June 26th, 1863, when the 26th Penna. or Emergency Regiment was leaving Gettysburg, will account for the fact that Mary Virginia Wade was not seen in the demonstration given in honor of the departing Gettysburg volunteer infantrymen at the time of their leave taking.

General Early of Ewell's Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia rode into Gettysburg on the afternoon of June 26th with about five thousand followers. Requisition was made on the town, the town constable, John Lawrence Burns—subsequently known as the "Hero of Gettysburg"—taking the message of General Early to Mr. David Kendlehardt, the acting Burgess.

Immediately after the Confederates came into Gettysburg, they began to collect the serviceable horses of the village. Samuel Wade, the second son of the Wade family, was employed at the time as a delivery boy for Mr. James Pierce, a butcher on Breckenridge Street. At the request of Mrs. Pierce, Samuel Wade was instructed to take the favorite family horse—an iron grey animal of good value—and to ride out of town along the Baltimore Pike. It seems that the lad had mounted the animal and had ridden some distance out Baltimore Street toward

Baltimore Pike when he was overtaken by Confederate pursuers, brought back to town and placed under arrest.

Virginia Wade being near the corner of Breckenridge and Baltimore Streets at the time and finding her brother a captive, remonstrated with the Confederates for having arrested her brother. Failing to secure his release, she immediately went to the McClellan residence—where her mother was in attendance on Georgia Wade McClllan, who had given birth to a son about half past two—one hour before the Confederates rode into Gettysburg.

Virginia, desiring to bring about the release of her brother and yet not wishing to disturb her sister, called the mother out of the house explaining to her the circumstances of Samuel's arrest.

Mrs. Wade went to the Town Square, appeared before General Early about 4 P. M. and secured the release of the boy. However, the enemy retained the horse which he had tried to save, but concerning which Virginia was not particularly interested.

Samuel Wade was a member of the Gettysburg Zouaves, a social, military organization.

June 26th, 1863 was indeed a never-to-be-forgotten day to members of the Wade family, and on no one did the patriotic responsibilities seem to rest so heavily as on the shoulders of Mary Virginia Wade. Her anxiety concerning the unfortunate uniform of her brother and her sisterly pride in his good military appearance in time to catch up with his already departed troop, must have borne heavily on her mind. The absence of the mother from the home attending her sister, the arrest of her brother and the securing of his release with the assistance of her mother would suggest that although this Gettysburg maid was not with the groups of girls and young ladies of the village to wave farewells to the departing students of the Emergency Regiment, she nevertheless was "doing her bit" in other ways that day serving the Union Cause.

CHAPTER III

(JUNE 30, 1863)

HE last day of June, 1863, will always be remembered in the history of Gettysburg, since it was on the evening of that day that the first Union troops put in an appearance in search of the Confederates known to be in the vicinity.

Gen. Buford's division of Cavalry had been sent ahead to Gettysburg by Gen. Reynolds, Commander of the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac. As the Union Cavalrymen, after a long and dusty ride, came into Gettysburg from the south by the Emmetsburg road, veterans say they were heartened by the sight of groups of loyal people who cheered and applauded, irrespective of their begrimed appearance.

Gettysburg girls sang patriotic songs as Buford's Cavalry passed through the town on their way toward the Seminary. Mrs. James Weaver (nee Sallie McClellan) has very kindly furnished a list as follows:

Maiden Name	*Married Name, if Married*
Florie Culp	Mrs. Kohler
Mary Culp	Mrs. Wm. Sheads
Sophia Culp	Mrs. John Tanney
Dora Flemming	Dora Flemming
Anna Garlach	Mrs. Kitzmiller
Sallie McClellan	Mrs. James Weaver
Belle McElroy	Mrs. Bond
Julia McElroy	Mrs. Happoldt
Jennie Myers	Mrs. Wm. Tawney
Salome Myers	Mrs. Stewart
Susie Myers	Susie Myers
Alice Powers	Alice Powers
Jane Powers	Mrs. MacDonnell
Amanda Reinecker	Mrs. Wm. Rupp
Carrie Young	Carrie Young
Irine Weisick	Irine Weinick

It will be observed that the name of Mary Virginia Wade is missing from this list and the question has been asked, by those who have disputed her loyalty to the Union Cause, why she was not present on this second occasion when patriotic demonstrations were being held—this time in welcoming rather than bidding Union soldiers adieu.

In all probability home responsibilities again interfered, and irrespective of the temptation which must have been present to shirk these obligations, Miss Wade remained faithful to a trust which had been delegated to her by her mother.

Virginia Wade and her mother did not have any too easy a time of it making ends meet. They had accepted for board a crippled boy, Isaac Brinkerhoff, age six, whose mother worked out by the week. The lad was unable to walk as he had not been left alone by his mother on the floor in order that his back might be strengthened sufficiently to enable him to rise. He was not deformed, but simply unable to care for himself.

When Mrs. Wade left the home on Breckenridge Street to be present with her older daughter, Mrs. McClellan, the care of little Isaac Brinkerhoff was intrusted to Virginia.

Buford's Cavalrymen arrived in Gettysburg about eight o'clock—just at the time when little boys are being put to bed. His undressing and the hearing of his prayers—for Virginia Wade was a very good girl—as we shall see—was probably occupying the attention of one who was destined to have abundant opportunities on the morrow to show her colors. They were true blue.

Photographer unknown

THE McCLELLAN RESIDENCE

As it appeared November 19, 1863

(*View looking from west side Baltimore Street*)

CHAPTER IV

(July 1, 1863)

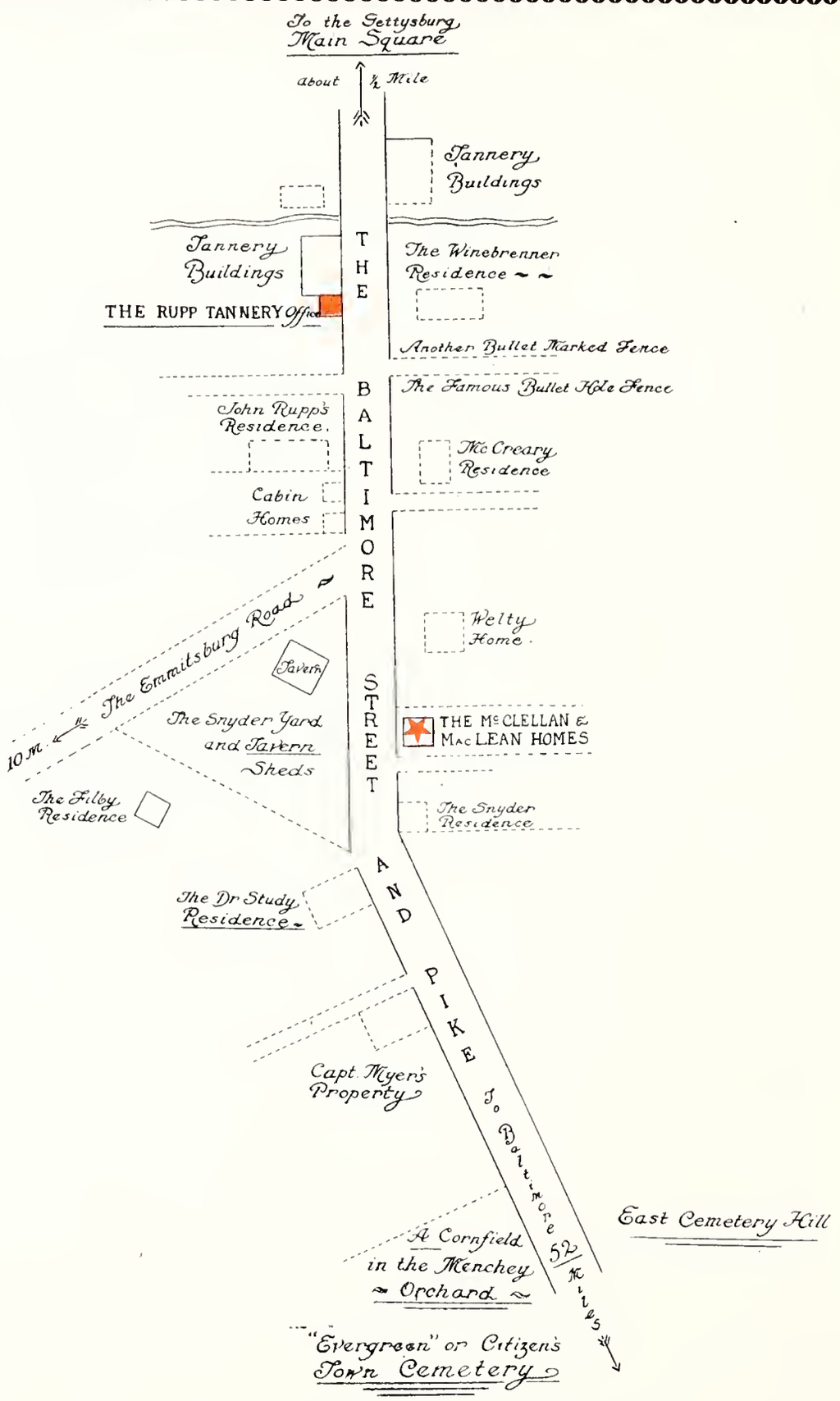
oon after the outset of the great battle of Gettysburg, Confederate shells from the batteries at the west of the town began to explode in the village. The commotion and serious danger resulting from these concussions suggested to the house holders that they either betake themselves to their cellars or leave for points of safety, quite naturally in the section of the town to the south, as the battle was on to the north and northwest.

Virginia Wade thought the home of her sister, near Cemetery Hill, would be a haven of safety. Accordingly, she carried her charge to the McClellan residence on Baltimore Street on the morning of July 1st. Leaving the crippled boy with her mother, she went back to the house on Breckenridge Street for her youngest brother, Harry, and also to procure some needed clothing. On leaving the house on Breckenridge Street, she locked the door placing the key in the pocket of her gown.

Arriving at the brick dwelling which sheltered her mother, sister, the two boys and the new born babe, she, as usual, began to resume the responsibilities which were so helpful to her mother. One of these duties was the answering of the calls at the door. These knocks were from Union soldiers requesting food. *After furnishing bread, she brought water from the windlass well at the east side of the house to the dismounted cavalrymen stationed in front. She filled the canteens of these soldiers from a pail which she rested on the sidewalk.*

About two o'clock the Union troops began their retreat from Seminary Ridge and from the north side of the town. The cool, refreshing water which Virginia Wade had to offer was indeed a blessing to men who had been in the stress of battle for hours and who were now hastening from distances as great as a mile. The day being particularly warm and sultry, good drinking water was in great demand.

Many a trip the empty pail made to the faithful well to be returned to the front of the house for the refreshment of the Boys in Blue. Drenched from the waist down, this Gettysburg girl was on July 1st



Map showing location of residences on Baltimore Street at the time of the Battle.

indeed making up for her unwilling absence from the assembly of her girlhood friends and acquaintances which had gathered in honor of the departing Emergency men on the afternoon of June 26th and also on the evening of June 30th, when the first soldiers bearing the National Colors had entered Gettysburg.

As evening approached, it became apparent that the house which Virginia Wade had chosen as a place of refuge was quite the contrary. In fact, the building was immediately between the new battle lines. Confederate sharpshooters stationed in the office of the Rupp Tannery on the opposite side of the street began firing at Union sharpshooters stationed about the little red brick structure which sheltered the women and children.

From time to time Confederate bullets found their mark and Union soldiers fell seriously wounded or in death about the McClellan yard. also in the vacant lot to the north. The cries of those wounded men, who were still under fire, prevented the possibility of sleep. *And now may it be said to the honor of the American girl that Virginia Wade went out of the house on the evening of July 1st, 1863, and at the risk of her life brought water and cheer to those about who had fallen.*

Molly Pitcher is said to have carried water from a well, which may still be seen on the battlefield of Monmouth, and to have been subsequently honored by General Washington for her heroism. Unfortunately, the historical records are incomplete and Molly Pitcher is, in reality, a semi-historical character. This is not the case with Mary Virginia Wade, whose faithful and ever loyal services to the Union soldiers are abundantly authenticated by those still living who were eye witnesses of her sympathy and service.

[William Otto Kahlar, of Co. 94, N. Y. Inf., writing from Lockport, N. Y., under date of Feb. 6th, '17, reports that Virginia Wade gave him two biscuits and a cup of water on July 1st, 1863. It seems that she also gave a cup to Orderly Sergeant Albert Brewer, who, it is said, has the souvenir to this day.]

Photo by Tipton, Gettysburg

THE McCLELLAN RESIDENCE

(View of north side of building which shows many battle scars.)

CHAPTER V

(July 2, 1863)

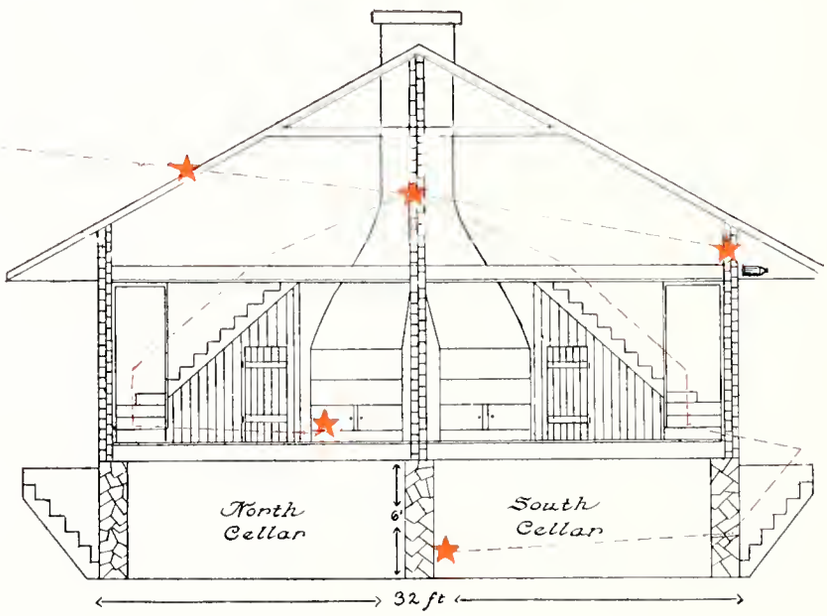
t was about five o'clock on the afternoon of July 1st, 1863, when the new battle lines of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia were being formed. The struggle of the first day had been a pronounced Confederate victory. A numerical superiority had counted against the Federal troops, and they had been forced to retreat through the town taking up new positions on two hills just to the south.

Men of the First Corps engaged in the fighting of the early morning hours, on arriving at Culp's Hill and on East Cemetery Hill, began to build fortifications. Batteries of artillery commanding Baltimore Street were stationed at the top of the incline; while Union pickets were thrown across Baltimore Street to the east and west forming curved lines about the Union breastworks.

The McClellan residence was at all times during the great battle within the Union lines. Being situated immediately between the office of the Rupp Tannery buildings and the Union fortifications on East Cemetery Hill, this little brick structure quite naturally suggested itself as an advantageous location for Union sharpshooters.

The constant firing by the Confederate marksmen toward these brick walls on the afternoon, evening and night of July 1st made rest within, at least on the north side of the building, quite impossible. The moaning of wounded soldiers in the yard outside indeed made the night hideous.

Mrs. McClellan's bed had been taken down stairs in the spring of the year and placed in the parlor. The mother and her five days' old babe occupied the bed and the parlor room at the outbreak of hostilities. As night came on and the danger increased, the three women and three children found comfort in each other's company. Without disrobing the mother reclined on the bed with Mrs. McClellan and the child; while Virginia rested on a lounge under the window at the north side of the house. The two little boys did not mind trundle beds on the floor, Harry Wade having hidden under the bureau from time to time as the danger from the shots increased.



CROSS SECTION OF THE McCLELLAN HOUSE

This plan illustrates the course of the 10 lb. Parrott shrapnel shell through the second story rooms. The division of the house is as if through the kitchens at the east end.

(*The dotted lines up and down the stairways will be subsequently explained.*)

With dawn on the morning of July 2nd, the fusillades of shots from the Confederate outposts were resumed. It was apparent that the sharpshooters stationed by the Confederate authorities at their lines nearest the Union strongholds were of exceptional ability. Hence a very serious danger to anyone who might be seen moving outside the McClellan building, or even inside the house past the window panes, since the storm shutters on the parlor window were not closed.

The morning of July 2nd passed uneventfully, but in the afternoon the patter of rifle balls against the side of the house and occasionally through a window light was interrupted by the crash of a 10 lb. Parrot shrapnel shell fired from Oak Ridge, to the north of the town, which came through the slant roof over the stairway on the north side at the east end of the incline. Passing through the wooden roof and the plaster wall, which divided the two houses of the double dwelling, the missile plowed through the brick wall on the south side of the house finally resting in an unexploded condition above the overshoot or outside extension of the roof, where it remained for over fifteen years.

Virginia Wade fearful that the house was being made an object for artillery as well as infantry fire, fainted at the roar of splintering wood and falling bricks upstairs.

The failure of the shell to explode within the house either on the north side or on the south side, where Mrs. McLean with her five children lived, was doubtless Providential.

Late on the afternoon of July 2nd as the evening shadows lengthened, an occasional Union soldier would venture to the door of the house asking for bread. *The diminishing quantity did not send away disappointed the few who applied at the door,* but it became more and more apparent that there would be need the next day for a goodly supply of that home baked bread which fighting men had tasted and found of excellent flavor.

Accordingly, on the afternoon of the second day, *Mrs. Wade and her daughter started the yeast, which was mixed into sponge on the evening of July 2nd and left to rise, until the morning of July 3rd.*

Frequent alarms and desultory firing during the evening and night of July 2nd again prevented normal rest. However, the women reclined as on the night before not knowing what new terrors each forthcoming hour might bring.

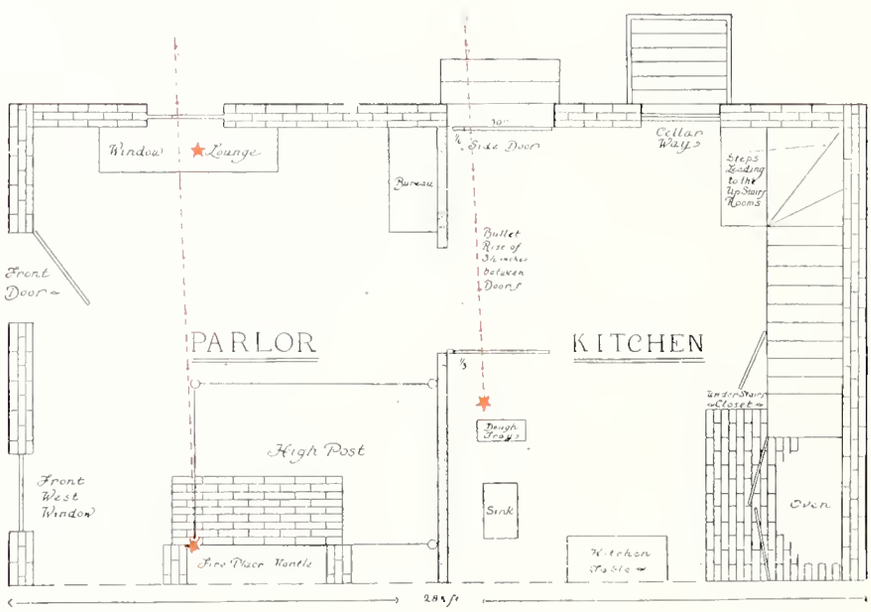
Photographer unknown

Untouched, original size ferrotype of

LEWIS KENNETH McCLELLAN

June 26th, 1863———

"Youngest veteran of the Battle of Gettysburg"



PLAN OF THE DOWN STAIRS ROOMS OF THE McCLELLAN HOUSE

The dotted lines through the parlor mark the route of the sharpshooter's bullet which struck the bed post and fell with splinters on the pillow endangering the mother and the baby.

CHAPTER VI

(July 3, 1863)

The occupants of the McClellan home were up and about as early as four o'clock on the morning of Friday, the third and final day of the great battle. At four-thirty o'clock Virginia and her brother Harry *went out to fetch in wood* for the baking of bread, the dough for which she had prepared the evening before.

On returning to the house she moulded the dough stiff, and left it to rise again. The Union pickets stationed near the Snyder Tavern, at the corner of Breckenridge and Baltimore Streets, having been driven back about four thirty, a soldier came to the house about a half hour later asking for bread. *He was promised biscuit, if he would call later.*

There were abundant opportunities for people in Gettysburg to sell food to hungry soldiers stationed about their homes. However, *Virginia Wade accepted no financial recompense whatsoever. She had given out bread several times on July 2nd,* saving, when the last soldier called at nine o'clock at night, only what was needed for the morning meal, which Mrs. Wade had just prepared.

After a frugal breakfast consisting of bread, butter, apple sauce and coffee, she went to the parlor and resting on the lounge under the north window began her customary religious devotions of the morning. She read from Psalms XXVII to XXX commenting aloud on different passages. The unquestioned danger they were in doubtless made Mrs. McClellan very nervous. She requested her mother to ask Virginia not to intensify the situation. The last words Mrs. McClellan heard her sister say were: *"If there is anyone in this house that is to be killed today, I hope it is me, as George* has that little baby."*

About seven o'clock the Confederate sharpshooters again began firing at the north windows of the house. Every pane of glass was soon

* Mrs. McClellan was called "George" by her sister.

Photo by Tipton, Gettysburg. © R. C. Miller

THE NORTH DOOR AT THE McCLELLAN HOUSE

The circle is drawn about the hole made by the fatal bullet

The bricks about this door are pitted with the marks of Confederate bullets.

broken, one bullet on entering the front room struck the southwest bed post, then hit the fireplace or wall, finally falling on the pillow at the foot of the bed toward which Mrs. McClellan and the child had been turned as a measure of safety, by the mother of the young women, at the suggestion of Virginia. It was thought bullets might come through the west door and window. The one which came through the north window was, in fact, warm when Mrs. Wade gathered it with splinters from the damaged bed post.

At eight o'clock work preparatory to the making of the biscuits, which had been promised, was begun. Going to her mixing tray Virginia prepared the flour and the baking soda for the biscuit. She had just about finished kneading the dough and had asked her mother to start the fire for the baking when a Confederate bullet, presumably from a sharpshooter's rifle at the Rupp Tannery office, penetrated the outer door on the north side, also the door which stood ajar between the parlor and the kitchen, striking the girl in the back just below the left shoulder blade. The heart was hit, the bullet embedding itself in the corset at the front of her body. She fell dead without a groan. It was now about 8:30.*

Mrs. Wade turning from her work at the fire and seeing her daughter fall realized, after a hasty examination, what had happened. She went to the parlor and said to Mrs. McClellan: "Georgia, your sister is dead."

The shock of this painful announcement caused Mrs. McClellan to scream, whereupon Union soldiers appeared in the kitchen and took charge of the situation. There were two groups of these men. One group composed of New York German soldiers on hearing the cries of distress broke open the north door through which the fatal bullet had passed but a few minutes before. Two other Union soldiers came down from the rooms up stairs. The presence of these two men in the house was most mysterious, as no one knows how they gained entrance to the premises.

An inspection of the place being made, the men decided to order the women to take refuge in the cellar on the opposite side of the building. They observed that the shrapnel shell which had struck the house on the afternoon before had made an opening in the partition wall between the north and south sides of the east rooms upstairs. It was

* See dotted line in plan of kitchen on page 20.

Photo by Tipton, Gettysburg

WOODEN MIXING TRAY

This mixing tray is the one over which Miss Wade was working at the time of her death. It may be seen at the "Jennie Wade House" Museum.

possible to enlarge this opening by tearing or kicking down the plaster. When this work had been done, the women were asked to go up the stairs, pass through the opening, come down the stairs on the other side of the house and then out of the south door into the cellar. Mrs. Wade agreed to comply, if her daughter's body also accompanied the party. Mrs. McClellan with the babe in her arms went up the stairs† unassisted, a soldier bringing after her a split bottom rocking chair. On arriving at the dividing wall, Mrs. McClellan handed the little bundle to a soldier, and after getting to the south side of the house resumed charge of her infant. Mrs. Wade and the boys followed. The soldiers then tenderly carried up the body of Virginia Wade wrapped in a quilt which Mrs. McClellan had pieced when five years of age.

Coming down the stairs from the second-story room at the east end of the building, they went out of the side door and down the stairs to their destination in the cellar, which seemed to be the safest place in the building for them, as it was on the side of the house away from the Confederate guns.

The body of the dead girl, still wrapped in the quilt, was laid on a bench,* generally used for the reception of milk pails and crocks, where it remained from eight thirty A. M., July 3rd until one o'clock A. M., July 4th. The vigil was kept for nearly eighteen hours before it seemed safe for them to come up out of their hiding place.

It must not be forgotten that Mrs. Wade—the mother of Mrs. McClellan and Mary Virginia Wade—at the suggestion of the soldiers and assisted by them, returned by the route they had made through the division wall to the room stained with her daughter's heart blood and baked fifteen loaves of bread, the dough for which the daughter, who had been her main support in life, had prepared. Most of this bread went to feed Union soldiers on the afternoon of July 3rd. None of it was sold.

Virginia Wade was not baking but mixing the ingredients for the biscuits, which she had promised, when overtaken by death. The biscuits were never finished. Hence the contention that she was baking bread for the household when she fell is incorrect in three particulars.

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† See dotted line in lower section of plan on page 18.

* See plan on page 18.

THE McCLELLAN RESIDENCE

(Popularly called the "Jennie Wade House," as it appears today. Now used as a war museum. The wheel in front of the house is a battlefield relic.)

CHAPTER VII

(July 4, 1863)

t five o'clock on the afternoon of July 4th a little group consisting of Mrs. Wade, Mrs. McClellan, Mrs. Filby—the mother of Mrs. Wade, Harry Wade and some six or eight soldiers, stood beside an open grave which had been prepared in the garden at the rear of the house.

The body on being taken from the cellar rested in a coffin which had been brought to the south side and placed on the brick pavement outside the cellar doors. It is believed that this casket was originally intended for a Confederate Colonel, the construction of the case having been started by Confederate workmen. This coffin was completed by Mr. Charles Comfort, of Gettysburg, and is the one in which our heroine still sleeps.

No preparations whatsoever were made for the cleansing, embalming or redressing of the deceased. She was placed in the coffin with the quilt wrapped about her. *The dough which was still on her hands and arms gave mute evidence of the service which she had and was faithfully endeavoring to render the Union Cause.* There were no spoken prayers and no music, as the girl was laid to rest in the yard of her sister's home.

[On July 8th, 1882, Mr. Mitchell, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted a Report (No. 793, 47th Congress, 1st Session) in the Senate of the United States whereby a pension of $8.00 a month was awarded by special act approved July 22, 1882, to Mary A. Wade by reason of the death of her daughter while serving the Union Cause.

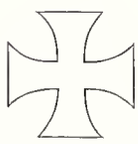
The report testifies that the daughter was a "healthy girl, very faithful, steady and expert with the needle, who at the time of her death and for some years previous thereto, contributed materially to the support of the family." Furthermore, she was her mother's main support.

J. H. Skelly and W. T. King, merchant tailors, made oath that both M. A. Wade and Virginia Wade had worked for them at the tailoring trade.]

CHAPTER VIII

(JANUARY, 1864)

The body remained in the grave of the first interment from the afternoon of July 4th, 1863, until January, 1864, when it was removed to the Cemetery adjoining the German Reformed Church.



CHAPTER IX

(NOVEMBER, 1865)

At the close of the war, Mr. McClellan, the husband of Georgia Wade, and her brother, John, who had bought a lot in Evergreen Cemetery, transferred the body to this family lot where she now rests.

CHAPTER X

(September 16, 1901)

The Iowa Woman's Relief Corps at their Department Convention, held in Davenport, in June, 1900, voted to erect a monument to the memory of Virginia Wade. There were no soldiers from the State of Iowa at the Battle of Gettysburg. Hence no Iowa State monuments.

Contributions for the erection of this monument being solicited by the Women's Relief Corps of Iowa, funds were received from the Corps of Iowa; from Missouri, from friends and members of the Wade family scattered throughout the country. (It is said that over five hundred Wades served in the Union Armies during the Civil War, fifty-seven of whom died in the service.)

A beautiful and most encouraging letter was written to the Committee by Mr. Walter Graham, of Harwick, Scotland, on February 11th, 1901—accompanied by ten schillings and five pence which he requested be devoted to the purchase of a *foundation stone* in the monument. This letter, which was in reality an echo communication from the call heard across the sea, inclosed two vine leaves plucked from the base of the monument erected on Calton Hill, Edinburgh, in memory of the Scottish American soldiers who fell during our Civil War. Also a spray of heather "just because it's Scotch." Speaker Henderson, of the House of Representatives, from Iowa—also of Scottish blood—contributed. G. A. R. posts in Connecticut and Pennsylvania and Sons of Veterans were not to be forgotten.

The monument erected Aug. 17, 1900, was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies September 16th, 1901, at an hour when the entire nation was in deep sorrow by reason of the obsequies incidental to the removal of the body of William McKinley, President of the United States, from Buffalo to his home in Canton, Ohio.

The cost of the monument, which was designed in Italy, was twelve hundred dollars. The Battlefield Commission paying one thousand dollars on behalf of the subscribers. Mrs. Anna Miller, the contractor, contributed two hundred.

The steel flagstaff on which the National Colors fly night and day was placed there in 1910 by the Gettysburg Association of Iowa Women. A new flag is sent each year by the Department of Iowa, Women's Relief Corps.

THE MONUMENT IN EVERGREEN CEMETERY, GETTYSBURG

ERECTED IN 1901 TO THE MEMORY OF MISS WADE

(As it appears at the present day.)

NAMES OF IOWA DELEGATION

(At the unveiling ceremonies.)

Margaret F. Hinman—Belmont
Chairman, Monument Committee

Georgia Wade McClellan—Denison

Christine C. Snyder—Creston

Georgia B. Worker—Davenport

June Allen—Davenport

Estella E. Plopper—Iowa Falls

Clara E. Batterson—Muscatine

Mrs. Col. Springer—Anamosa

Sarah Fox—Muscatine

Miss Elsie May Worker—Davenport

Dr. Sara H. James—Centerville

Clara Mae Alt—Cedar Rapids

CORPORAL SKELLY, CO. 87 P. V.

(Born, August 4th, 1841—Died July 12th, 1863.)

THE GRAVE OF CORPORAL SKELLY

(Interment, November 30th, 1864.)

CHAPTER XI

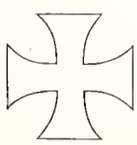
(JUNE 15, 1863)

Corporal Johnston Hastings Skelly, the sweetheart of Virginia Wade, was wounded June 15, 1863, in the battle of Carter's Woods, near Winchester, Virginia.

He died July 12th at Winchester, Virginia, and was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Winchester.

It was God's mercy that neither Miss Wade nor Corporal Skelly should know of the sacrifice which the other had paid the Nation.

A photograph of Corporal Skelly was found in the pocket of Virginia Wade's gown with the key of the house she had left on Breckenridge Street. *Is any further evidence necessary to prove she was a Union girl? Furthermore, Union veterans attest that her attitude toward them was cordial.*



CHAPTER XII

(NOVEMBER, 1864)

In November, 1864, Mr. Daniel A. Skelly, the brother of Johnston H. Skelly, brought the body to Gettysburg, where it was interred in Evergreen Cemetery. The grave of this Gettysburg youth who also paid the "last full measure of devotion" is about seventy-five paces from the grave of the girl he loved.

Skelly Post, G. A. R. No. 9, Gettysburg, has honored the memory of Corporal "Jack" and has also honored the Post by bearing the name of a Gettysburg volunteer highly respected by his comrades—beloved by the Gettysburg Maid.

"She gave all she had, she did her best;
Angels could do no more."

JOHN WHITE JOHNSTON

Author - Publisher

(Member, Rochester Historical Society; member, National Historical Society.)

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A Memorial Service

in honor of

MARY VIRGINIA WADE

was held in St. James Lutheran Church

Gettysburg, Monday Evening, June 11th, 1917

Georgia Wade McClellan,

the sister of Mary Virginia Wade attended

Mr. J. W. Johnston,

gave "The True Story of Jennie Wade"
illustrated with stereopticon views.

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A Memorial Service

in honor of

MARY VIRGINIA WADE

was held in St. James Lutheran Church

Gettysburg, Monday Evening, June 11th, 1951

Georgia Wade McClellan,

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